

Orphan Trains to Missouri

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but immediately followed them with an English translation. This recent edition reveals twenty-two new translations of documents that were not included in the original; five of these pertain to Marion and Sioux Counties, Iowa. A new introduction by Robert P. Swierenga enhances this edition by providing insightful biographical information about Lucas and offering an assessment of his selection of sources. The original index has also been augmented with subject-related entries.

This compilation by Lucas complements his full-length history, *Netherlanders in America*, first published in 1955 and reprinted by Eerdmans in 1989. These books, along with the massive two-volume work by Jacob van Hinte, also titled *Netherlanders in America* and reprinted in an English translation in 1985, form an encyclopedic trilogy for students of Dutch-American history and are indispensable resources for any scholar interested in comparative ethnic studies of the Midwest. The particular appeal of this anthology of first-person observations is, of course, to hear the immigrants tell their own stories of creating new settlements and relate the experiences of beginning anew in the course of their own life histories.

Orphan Trains to Missouri, by Michael D. Patrick and Evelyn Goodrich Trickel. Missouri Heritage Readers Series. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1997. xiii, 112 pp. Illustrations, suggested readings list, index. \$9.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY MARILYN IRVIN HOLT, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

From the 1850s through the 1920s, charities in eastern cities, such as Boston and New York, transported homeless and destitute children and teenagers to rural communities. The "Orphan Trains" deposited these youngsters throughout the country, and there was certainly placement of children in Iowa homes.

This slim volume is a general overview of the practice, focusing on one charity (New York Children's Aid Society) and on one state (Missouri). It is meant for an adult audience, and it fulfills that intent. However, broad generalizations, misstatements (it is extremely doubtful that Missouri received one hundred thousand youngsters), and no footnotes limit its usefulness as a research tool or its interest level for anyone with more than a passing familiarity with the subject. Nevertheless, the book suggests the importance of collecting and publishing orphan train rider stories to document that unique episode in American social history.

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